

June 1996

Doc Aquis

Mary McLaren
University of Kentucky

Barbara Hale
University of Kentucky

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

McLaren, Mary and Hale, Barbara (1996) "Doc Aquis," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 8: Iss. 3, Article 43.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1934>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

DOC AQUIS

Column Editors: **Mary McLaren** and **Barbara Hale** (U. of Kentucky) <MCLAREN@UKCC.UKY.EDU>

Send comments, information, etc. to the editors — The University of Kentucky, Margaret I. King Library, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0039. FAX (606)257-1563.

GPO Access Service

by **Daniel C. Barkley**
(Government Information Librarian,
The University of New Mexico
General Library,
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1466)
<barkley@unm.edu>
ph: 505-277-7180 (office);
505-266-8553 (home); 505-277-4097 (fax).

On June 8, 1993 the **GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993 (GPO Access)** was signed into law (P.L. 103-40) by President Clinton. P.L. 103-40 was a result of bipartisan support led by Senator Wendall H. Ford (KY) and Representative Charlie Rose (NC). As mandated in P.L. 103-40, the service known as **GPO Access** became available to the American public one year later.

Initially, **GPO Access** made available versions of the **Congressional Record** and the **Federal Register** via the Internet through a Government Printing Office (GPO) developed system utilizing a Wide Area Information Server (WAIS). This access was facilitated by the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), a system of over 1400 Congressionally designated repositories for government information which provide service to the constituents of nearly every Congressional District in the United States.

P.L. 103-40 also required that three additional components be developed and provided by GPO. The first was **GILS, Government Information Locator Service**,

an electronic directory designed to assist users in locating federal electronic information. The other components consisted of an electronic storage facility located in Owensboro, KY which would retain databases and provide online access to them, and an electronic federal bulletin board which would contain

files from various federal agencies representing all three branches of the Federal Government. All were to be accessible on the Internet via Telnet.

The result of the development of **GPO Access** led to more timely access to government information. GPO earned two awards for the development of this service. On December 1, 1994 GPO received the 1994 Federal Leadership Award given by *Government Executive Magazine* and on March 15, 1995, they received the 1995 James Madison Award for its commitment to creating public awareness of access to and dissemination of government information.

Since its inception, **GPO Access** has been a fluid and dynamic service which has strived to incorporate more electronic federal government information as it has become available. GPO has worked closely with numerous federal agencies and their publishing or information dissemination officers in encouraging use of the World Wide Web. Links from the GPO Home Page to specific agencies' homepages have developed and grown.

Initially, **GPO Access** was met with some resistance from both the depository library and private sector communities. Many libraries participating in the FDLP were unable to provide service due to their limited knowledge of, or accessibility to, the necessary computer equipment and related technology. The private sector, on the other hand, was reluctant to subscribe to a service viewed as inadequate when compared with other vendor supplied information retrieval services already in existence. However, much of the apprehension was alleviated when Public Printer **Michael F. DiMario** announced on December 1, 1995 that **GPO Access** would be available to anyone with the necessary computer equipment for free. Mr. DiMario urged those without computer equipment to utilize depository libraries because they "will continue as an essential link between **GPO Access** and the public."

The **Government Information Department (GID)** at the **University of New Mexico's General Library** is currently one of two Regional Depositories in the state and considers itself to be a leader in the dissemination of federal government information. A depository since Territorial days and a Regional Depository since 1967, the GID has provided public service and access to its vast collection as well as assistance and advice to the nine selective depositories located in New Mexico.

When P.L. 103-40 was enacted and as

GPO articulated to the FDLP the method and means by which depositories would be allowed access to the service, GID prepared itself to again assume a leadership role for the dissemination and access to federal government electronic information. The GID was one of the original 600 depositories that agreed to provide **GPO Access** to its constituents and recently became the eleventh "Model Gateway" in the FDLP.

The "Model Gateway" service was established by GPO in mid 1995 with the goal that at least one depository library in each state would provide "gateway" service to whomsoever could connect to that library via modem and computer. While other libraries in the FDLP were limited to simultaneous connections at that time, participating "gateway" libraries could provide access to an unlimited number of simultaneous users.

GPO Access has been, in many ways, a boon to public service information provision and dissemination in GID. In the past, a client seeking information on a current Congressional bill, rule, technical or administrative change or proposal as published in the **Federal Register** or other timely information had to wait until the library received it in traditional formats (i.e. — paper or microfiche) by traditional means (i.e. — first class mail or depository shipment). Today, however, that same client has instantaneous access to Congressional bills, debates from yesterday's proceedings in the Senate or new technical guidelines as issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, GID maintains the necessary computer equipment and software not only to access that information, but also to provide it to the client on paper, diskette or by sending it via email to the client's mailbox.

The downside to this is the increasing demand for the service, not only locally, but remotely as well. Also, more clients see this as a panacea to their informational pursuits rather than as an additional tool to be used to access government information. Further, the printing demands placed upon GID have increased dramatically and have led us to review our current policies on unlimited printing. While the library does not discourage clients from printing multiple pages, we do encourage them to supply their own floppy diskette for downloading or send the file to their email account.

When **GPO Access** was first introduced, many libraries, including ours, found it most useful to provide the service via a gopher. But

continued on page 88



DOC AQUIS from page 86

as the World Wide Web has developed and grown, as the use of standardized language for the creation of homepages and the need to provide better and more timely reference service has increased, the GID has barely managed to stay even with the explosion of government information available electronically. Rather than re-invent the wheel, GID uses **Purdue University's** software for a front-end

interface on its HomePage (<http://www.unm.edu/~cmclean/govinfo.html>). **Purdue University** was most gracious in allowing us to "borrow" from them liberally to create our own HomePage with links not only to **GPO Access** but also to a host of other electronic sources on the Internet.

GPO recently announced measures it will take in order to disseminate more and more federal government information electronically. **The Transition Plan** which is already beginning to take shape will rely more heavily on

GPO Access as its principal means of electronic dissemination and access to that information. The Government Information Department of the University of New Mexico's General Library will continue to provide gateway service to **GPO Access** as we maintain our leadership position in the state. The Department will continue to provide advice and assistance to the selective depositories in New Mexico as they acquire the necessary equipment to provide government information in electronic formats to their constituents.

Have You Heard? by Mary McLaren and Barbara Hale (U. of Kentucky) <MCLAREN@UKCC.UKY.EDU>

Having recently read an information-packed resource that could be of interest to anyone involved in acquisitions, we'd like to begin this issue's column with a "Have You Read?" item. The September/October 1995 issue of **Library Technology Reports** contains a wealth of information in its report entitled, "Electronic Commerce in Library Acquisitions with a Survey of Bookseller and Subscription Agency Services." Written by **David Barber**, this informative report first explains the various commercial technologies which have been developed and are presently being used in the book and serials acquisitions arena. EDI, standards, and Internet capabilities are all described in the background report. The roles of online bookstores, publishers and vendors, interactive and non-interactive forms of communication, server security, and electronic payment systems are also discussed. The report concludes with profiles of 25 book and serial vendors describing the EDI, online ordering, PC, and other electronic services each has to offer. Electronic ordering tools which are not tied to a specific bookseller are also profiled. This report is "Must Reading" for anyone looking for either an introduction to acquisitions technology or a catch-up to the present state of the art.

And now, news from the field: **Have You Heard ...**

That **The UnCover Company** and the **National Writers Union (NWU)** recently announced the creation of the first-ever transaction-based writers' royalty system in the new electronic media. Under the agreement, the NWU will clear copyrights and distribute royalties to writers for fax delivery of orders from UnCover. To handle the royalty system, the NWU has formed **Publications Rights Clearinghouse** which will operate out of NWU's West Coast office in Oakland, CA. Both NWU members and non-members are eligible to enroll. For more information, contact **UnCover** or **Irvin Muchnick**, NWU, (510-839-0110; irmmuch@netcom.com).

Over 22,000 in-process books records created by **Puvill Libros SA** have been loaded into **RLIN** under the library identifier XPUV. Puvill is the second major book vendor to participate in **RLG's** service to provide quick and accurate records to **RLIN** and **Eureka** users.

Yankee Book Peddler (YBP) says that it will soon announce the availability of **LC MARC CIP Upgrades** and also the ability to provide original Core-Level records. They expect to provide these records to their customers this spring or summer. They have joined **OCLC's CIP** upgrade program and will contribute upgraded CIP records to OCLC's cataloging database. YBP also tells us that they have partnered with **Georgia State University**, **St. Olaf College**, and **MSUS-PALS** to test X12 purchase order and PO acknowledgment transmissions. Transmissions should be into routine operation early this spring.

News from **Harrassowitz** includes the announcement that **Stanford University Libraries** and **Harrassowitz** have agreed to work together to implement the use of **EDIFACT** for the electronic transactions between library and agent for acquisitions and collections management. [Ed note: An explanation of **EDIFACT** can be found in the **Library Technology Report** previously cited above.] The project will initially concentrate on transactions for books, orders, claims, reports, and invoices. Stanford will be the first library in the US to implement **UN/EDIFACT** transactions.

Also related to **EDIFACT**, **Endeavor Information Systems** and **Harrassowitz** announced their partnership in a pilot project which will use EDI for the full cycle of business transactions between libraries using **Voyager** and library booksellers/agents. **Kansas State University** is to be the site for testing this summer. **Voyager** clients are scheduled to have **EDIFACT** capabilities beginning with 1997, the time when both **BISAC** and **SISAC** have announced they will migrate from **ASC X12** to **UN/EDIFACT**.

SIRSI has announced its new **UnicornOASIS**, a total library automation system for the public library. Designed and priced exclusively to meet the requirements of public libraries, **UnicornOASIS** is a high-end, custom system offering **WebCat**, **SimpleSEARCH**, **Reference LIBRARIAN**, and an **Internet Gateway** among other features.

SIRSI also announced recently that it has launched an **online web directory** of content for information specialists called, "Professional Resources." Offered from **SIRSI's**

Website, <<http://www.sirsi.com>>, **Professional Resources** provides links to content-rich sites containing tools, standards data, industry papers, and more for librarians and other information specialists.

Have you heard that **Ameritech** announced on April 18th that it has donated \$2 million to create the **Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition**? This grant will provide funding to libraries across the nation, on a competitive basis, to digitize their own special collections and add them to the **National Digital Library**. For more information, contact **Rick Aspan**, **Ameritech** (312-364-3570; <rick.w.aspan@ameritech.com>) or **Guy Lamolinara**, **Library of Congress** (202-707-9217).

Another news item from **Ameritech** is the word that **Ameritech Library Services** will now market **Infonautics Corporation's Electric Library**. **The Electric Library** is an online reference service that provides access to textual and graphical information in one place. Users can research topics using natural language and download fulltext articles and images by a click of the mouse.

The **Institute of Scientific Information (ISI)** has also announced several new products of interest. These are: **Journal Tracker**, a table-of contents product developed for individual researchers; **Corporate Alert**, a table-of-contents product designed for users within an organization; **Personal Alert**, a profile based personalized search service; and **Professional Alert**, an alert service designed to aid small groups within an organization. All four of these products are direct-to-the-desktop services. ISI also announced that its **Current Contents** database will be available for **Lotus Notes** in May 1996. **Current Contents** for **Lotus Notes** will provide wide-area access to the CC database via a locally based server. The data will be updated weekly.

From **Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)** we learned of their new service which offers easy, cost-effective Internet delivery of all US patents since 1974. **Chemical Patents Plus** incorporates a specially indexed collection of US chemical patents and rotatable 3D structure views for many CAS Registry Numbers via browsers that support **JAVA**. 